

from an idea borne from war to a national network on which people depend in times of crisis and calm alike.

My own State of Maryland recently suffered severe damage from two consecutive Nor'Easters which battered the coastline. Ocean City, a center of Maryland's summer tourism, and Assateague Island, one of the State's most critical natural resources, sustained high winds, wave action and tidal surges which leveled protective dunes, destroyed recreational beaches and caused severe damage to roads, parking lots, and bike trails. American Red Cross volunteers responded quickly to the needs of these communities by preparing shelters for evacuees, providing replacement food, clothing and basic furnishing to those in need, and helped to evaluate damage to homes of year round residents. I am personally very grateful for all that was done for these people in a time of unexpected loss and would like to thank the many volunteers who pitch in when "Help Can't Wait."

Although disaster relief is one of the most important and renowned roles of the American Red Cross, the local chapters offer many other critical services that serve to prevent emergencies and provide training. The Red Cross is perhaps best known for its work to ensure a safe blood supply and blood products for cancer patients, accident victims and others in need. Other important services include courses in CPR, First Aid, HIV/AIDS education, swimming lessons, life guarding, and disaster relief and preparedness training.

The American Red Cross also works closely with civic and educational entities to further their message and facilitate training. In Maryland, a newly formulated "Safe Families—Safe Kids" Campaign will be presented to schoolchildren from kindergarten to third grade in Baltimore City and counties throughout the State. This program will address safety concerns for children and families, including fire and injury prevention and interaction with strangers.

The activities of the American Red Cross are innumerable and their contributions to the health and wellbeing of our society are invaluable. What is clear, this month and throughout the entire year, is that the tradition of service and the value of community responsibility thrives in the actions of this historic organization. I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding those who are taking part in the oldest and best of America's traditions—the spirit of service.●

HEALTHY KIDS ACT

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, recently I cosponsored legislation authored by my colleague from North Dakota, Senator CONRAD, which addresses a serious threat to public health: youth smoking. Every day 3,000 kids take up smoking, and tragically, 1,000 of them

will eventually die of tobacco-related illnesses. Since research has shown that 90 percent of all smokers begin smoking in their teens or younger, we must do more to prevent our children from becoming hooked on tobacco.

The Healthy Kids Act, S. 1638, takes the tobacco settlement negotiated by several states' attorneys general last summer and strengthens it. The bill provides the Food and Drug Administration with full authority to regulate tobacco. This would protect FDA's ability to, among other things, require health warnings on tobacco products, prohibit advertising aimed at children and insure the safety of tobacco ingredients. The bill imposes penalties on tobacco companies if they fail to reduce youth smoking rates by 67 percent over the next 10 years and funds research, prevention and smoking cessation programs. The bill also requires tobacco companies to make public their documents related to the health effects of smoking, manipulation of nicotine levels in tobacco and their efforts to market tobacco products to minors.

Finally, the legislation would impose a health fee on tobacco products of 50 cents per pack in 1999, increasing to \$1.50 per pack in 2001. While I have some concern about the level of this new fee, it has two important goals. The first, and most important, is to discourage children from taking up smoking. Most experts agree that a substantial increase in the price of cigarettes is the most effective way to reduce teen smoking. Secondly, this new fee rightly asks smokers to pay for some of the costs to states and the federal government of treating smoking-related health problems.

I don't agree with every provision in S. 1638, but I cosponsored it because I believe it is important that Congress pass comprehensive legislation to combat youth smoking this year. Tobacco should continue to be a legal product for adults, but we need to do more to keep it out of the hands of children and we must hold the tobacco industry accountable for their efforts to hook our kids.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. WENDELL C. SOMERVILLE

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to note the death of Dr. Wendell C. Somerville, who passed away on Sunday, December 28, 1997.

Dr. Somerville served his nation in the United States Navy and, at the age of 27, received his call to preach. In 1927, he was ordained in the Mill Neck Baptist Church of Como, North Carolina, by a council consisting of representatives of seven churches. From that time until his death, he pastored the First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina and, in 1934, he served as the first full-time Executive Secretary for the General Baptist State Convention.

By 1940, Dr. Somerville took on the assignment for which he is most re-

membered: Executive Secretary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, an organization to which dozens of Virginia churches belong. He served with distinction in this position for more than 55 years when he was unanimously elected Executive Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus, an office he held until his death. During his active tenure, he traveled extensively, making 28 trips aboard and one around the world where he met with foreign leaders in an effort to spread his positive message.

We cherish his memory as his work touched the lives of men, women and youth alike. Mr. President, I commend to the United States Senate and to the American people the life and public service of Dr. Wendell C. Somerville.●

URBAN POLICY, THE RICE FOUNDATION AND NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to call our attention to a most significant event to be held next week. On March 10, 1998, New York University will honor the generosity and vision of Henry Hart Rice with the first ever Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum on "The Revitalization of New York City."

The moderator will be Dr. Mitchell L. Moss who has fittingly been named the Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning, a newly endowed chair at New York University. In addition to honoring the remarkable legacy and vision of Mr. Rice, this new chair, according to University President, L. Jay Oliva, "will play a major role in supporting undergraduate programs in urban policy that will be available to students from all schools of the University."

The study of urban policy is vital to the future of New York and our nation. Appropriate that it is carried out by as vital and lively an institution as NYU. But let us not lose sight of our history as we look forward. For the longest while we in New York defined ourselves by spectacular public works. The Croton Aqueduct, 1842—pick and shovel all the way for 41 miles to 42nd Street. We built Central Park in two years—more gunpowder than was used at Gettysburg. The Empire State Building—a public work really—14 months. Steam power. But the plain fact is that we have developed a civic culture in which prestige more often goes to those who prevent the city from developing than to those who enable it. The time has come to ask how this came about, and how it might be reversed.

Thus, it is with great anticipation that we look to Professor Moss, the esteemed participants in the Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum, and the committed leaders at NYU, to lead us toward this end.●